



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glacier National Park  
(A part of Waterton-Glacier  
International Peace Park)

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## Glacier National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release  
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### Two Medicine Fire Cache and Park Employee Housing To Aid in Quicker Emergency Responses

*Project moves forward after receiving regional approval*

WEST GLACIER, MONT. – National Park Service (NPS) employees working in the Two Medicine Valley will be better positioned to quickly respond to search and rescue, wildland fire, and law enforcement operations next year after construction of a new fire cache and replacement housing at Two Medicine.

Design of the fire cache and construction of the two, two-bedroom energy-saving housing duplex units will begin this fall.

Currently, there is no fire cache at Two Medicine, nor is there enough housing for protection and emergency personnel. The East Glacier volunteer fire department currently aids NPS personnel when there is a fire at Two Medicine, along with NPS teams from West Glacier and St. Mary. According to Michael (Mick) Holm, Superintendent at Glacier, “With the added on-site housing and fire cache, there will be more employees and equipment in the area, which makes response time faster.”


The fire cache will be able to store one fire truck, search and rescue and fire equipment and provide administrative space. The new garage will replace two small sheds that are not historic.

The new housing will replace temporary housing trailers that were removed in the mid-1990s. The replacement housing project has been in the planning stages since that time, and there are now replacement funds available for this project.

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Both buildings will be similar in design, will blend into the surrounding area and will be accessible for the physically-challenged. The plan also includes a gathering area for employees and landscaping. In order to reduce heating costs, the duplex is positioned for maximum solar gain. Employee parking and realignment of the existing access road are also part of the project.

The NPS has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this proposed project. Karen Wade, Intermountain Regional Director, approved the FONSI based on the park's recently prepared environmental assessment (EA) and public comments.

A Statement of Findings was also approved that allows the NPS to develop within a floodplain. Although the environmental assessment and statement of findings assumed that the project area was in the floodplain, this was confirmed by a site survey conducted in July 2002. The survey concluded that although most of the existing developed area at Two Medicine is located within the floodplain of Appistoki Creek, the proposed new fire cache/garage and duplex are located in the best possible place.

According to the assessment, the impacts on socioeconomic, natural and cultural resources will not be significant.

For more information about this project or to obtain a copy of the FONSI and/or the Statement of Findings, please view the park's website ([www.nps.gov/glac/whatsnew/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/glac/whatsnew/planning.htm)) or contact the park (Attn: Project Management Office) at 406-888-7973.

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